

RESEARCH INTEREST

I am interested in all speech and language processing. In particular, I am enthusiastic about building efficient and robust speech recognition systems in low-resource and multilingual settings. I'm also interested in understanding the intricacies of human-machine interactions towards building intelligent multimodal dialogue systems.

EDUCATION

MSc., Machine Intelligence, Africa Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), Kigali, Rwanda Oct 2019 – **Mar 2021**

- Recipient of the Google and Meta (formerly Facebook) full scholarship to pursue the African Masters of Machine Intelligence programme at the Africa Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Supervisor: Prof. Antonios Anastasopoulos
- Date of completion: **31/03/2021**
- **Comment:** completed (both course work and research project) just waiting for results.

MSc., Information Technology Management, Binary University, Puchong, Malaysia Apr 2013 – Oct 2014

- Specialization: **Information Technology**

BSc., Computer Science, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia Apr 2007 – Aug 2011

- Specialization: **Computer Systems Engineering**
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Zambia, Zambia May 2015 – **Present**

- Undergraduate Computer Science courses: Introduction to Data Mining (CSC 4792) and Database Systems (CSC 2702/CSC 3712)

Instructor, CISCO Academy, University of Zambia, Zambia Sep 2016 – Jun 2019

- Instructor of Python Programming, IT Essentials and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) Level 1 and Level 2 CISCO courses.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science, University of Zambia, Zambia Feb 2012 – May 2015

- Teaching assistant for Introduction to Databases course in the Department of Computer Science under the Staff Development Fellowship.
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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Mathematics for Machine Learning Specialization** by Imperial College London on Coursera Nov 2019
Certificate of completion
 - **Deep Learning Specialization** by DeepLearningAI on Coursera Aug 2018
Certificate of completion
 - **Machine Learning** by Stanford University on Coursera Jul 2018
Certificate of completion
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PUBLICATIONS

- **C. Sikasote**, A. Anastasopoulos, *BembaSpeech: A Speech Recognition Corpus for the Bemba Language*, Proceedings of the LREC, 2022.
- S. H. Chiwamba, J. Phiri, P. O.Y. Nkunika, **C. Sikasote**, M. M. Kabemba, M. N. Moonga, *Automated Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*, J.E. Smith) Pheromone Trap Based on Machine Learning*, Journal of Computer Science 2019, 15 (12): 1759.1779

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- **African Master of Machine Intelligence Scholarship**, Kigali, Rwanda Sep 2019
- **Special Research Fellowship**, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia Sep 2019
- **Binary University Scholarship**, Binary University, Malaysia Apr 2013
- **Staff Development Fellowship**, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia Feb 2012
- **Zambia Higher Education Scholarship**, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia Apr 2007

GRANTS

- **Multimodal Datasets for the Bemba Language**, Co-Principal Investigator, LacunaFund Apr 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python
- **Database technologies:** MS SQL, MySQL
- **Operating System platforms:** Windows, Linux
- **Machine Learning libraries:** Scikit-learn, Pandas, NumPy, SciPy
- **Data Visualization tools:** Matplotlib, tSNE
- **Deep Learning frameworks:** Pytorch, Tensorflow
- **Speech Recognition Tools:** DeepSpeech, Wav2Vec

OPEN-SOURCE DATASETS

- **Zambezi Voice** : A multilingual speech corpus for Zambian languages containing speech recognition data resources for three languages of Zambia. [ON-GOING]
Link: <https://github.com/unza-speech-lab/zambezi-voice>
- **BembaSpeech** : ASR corpus consisting of 24 hrs of read speech for the Bemba language spoken by over 30% of the population in Zambia.
Link: <https://github.com/csikasote/BembaSpeech>
- **Multimodal Dataset for the Bemba Language** : Large scale multimodal dataset for the Bemba language containing multi-turn image-grounded dialogues amounting to over 180 hours of speech with corresponding Bemba transcription and translation in English.
Link: <https://github.com/csikasote/igc-mu-cibemba>
- **Multilingual ASR Corpus for African Languages** : Multilingual speech corpus consisting of over 60 hours of read speech for 19 African languages. I contributed 2 hours of read speech for Bemba language.
Link: <https://github.com/besacier/AMMIcourse/tree/master/STUDENTS-RETURN>

STUDENT SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

- **Stanly Mwape**, Undergraduate, University of Zambia 2021/2022
- **Kalinda Siaminwe**, Undergraduate, University of Zambia, 2021/2022
- **Bangiwe Zulu**, Undergraduate, University of Zambia 2021/2022

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Conference Volunteer**

International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) Mar 2021
International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics (AISTATS) Apr 2021